



# The Southeast News

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 3

JANUARY 1968



## Rev. Horace Sills Is Liaison For Southeast

Rev. Horace S. Sills, a native of North Carolina, assumed a new post January 1, 1968, when he became liaison person for the Board of Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ with Southern Conference and Southeast Conference.

Mr. Sills will work with local churches and conferences regarding aid or guidance from the Board for Homeland Ministries.

## THE CHURCHMEN'S WASHINGTON SEMINAR

The Churchmen's Washington Seminar will be February 6-9, at the Church of the Reformation, 212 E. Capitol St., Washington, D. C. Theme: "The Church In a Time of Tension." Registration \$15. An opportunity for religious leaders to study the operation of the Federal Government at its source, this offers an unusual opportunity.

Contact the Conference office if interested.

## SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

Date — April 27, 28, 1968

Place — Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga

Theme — 1968-69 Emphasis, "The Local Church in God's Mission"

Speaker — Rev. Alfred C. Bartholomew of Lancaster Seminary

Membership of the conference will be constituted according to Article IV of the constitution.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**  
Feb. 21, 1968—10:30 A. M.  
SE Conference Office, Atlanta

## Historic Meeting At SUC, Wadley, Alabama

Friday, November 24th, 1967, was a day of historic importance in Wadley, Alabama. On that day, the Board of Trustees of the old Southern Union College held their last meeting and voted the old corporation out of existence. At the same time, they voted into existence a new corporation which, in a small way, would carry out the functions of the former corporation. The new corporation with a Board of Directors selected from the members of the Board of Directors of the Southeast

(Continued on Page 4)

## Lanett Boy Receives Eagle Scout Award

Scouting's highest award was presented Boy Scout Terrell Shaddix, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Shaddix Jr., prior to church services Sunday morning, Dec. 10, 1967, at the Congregational Christian Church of Lanett.

The award was presented by Scout-

master George Mann of Troop 1. Shown, left to right, are Shaddix, the Rev. Walter Hall, pastor of the church, the new Eagle Scout, Scoutmaster George R. Mann, and Mrs. Shaddix, who pinned the Eagle award on her son.



## News From First Church, Atlanta

On Sunday, Dec. 10, First Church, Atlanta, was "Church of the Week" on Channel 11, with the 11 A. M. worship service. "How to Find Christmas" was the sermon topic by Rev. H. C. McEwen.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, Men's Day was observed at the 11 A. M. worship service, with Rev. Andrew J. Young giving the sermon. Mr. Young is presently executive vice-president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The Covenant Club, which provided much of the leadership for Men's Day, had dinner at a local restaurant, along with their wives and guests.

A group of senior highs from First Church attended the play, "Blue Denim," and the discussion which followed at Trinity Methodist Church recently.

Dr. Edward A. Jones, a member of the fellowship, has recently had published by Judson Press a book on the history of Morehouse College, "A Candle in the Dark," price \$5.95.

Southeast Conference youth will meet at First Church March 30-31, 1968. First Church, along with others in the area, will provide housing.

The Adult Forum, a newly organized group, is open to the middle group of adults in the church and others in the community interested in a search for truth and relevancy. Next meeting will be Jan. 15 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Mangham, 549 Collier Ridge Dr., NW, with a discussion of "Micronesia, an American Colony?" led by Rev. Donald Daughtry.

A group of teenagers from Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ congregations met Dec. 9 at Covenant Presbyterian to explore needs and possibilities for their working together as Christians. The film strip, "Hide Or Go Seek," formed the basis of the discussions.

The World Mission Tea was deemed a great success, bringing a total of about \$1700 for OCWM.

## MINISTERS' CONVOCATION SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Jan. 15-17, 1968—Camp Calvin

"The Local Church  
In God's Mission"

## Christmas Is Observed In Various Ways

At Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, the Youth Choir entertained at Family Night December 6th. A program of story and music followed a carry-in supper with Plymouth Unit as hostesses. Tables were decorated with lovely Christmas candles, which were for sale, made by Plymouth Unit members.

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At Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, a party followed the Christmas program on December 24th, with church families bringing cookies and sandwiches.

A service using the Advent Wreath was prepared by Mrs. James Wagner for use of families with children.

\* \* \* \*

At United Church, LaGrange, a service using the "Chrismon Christmas Tree" explained the symbolism of our Christmas tree. As each symbol was placed on the tree a brief definition and explanation was given, with readings and hymns used at appropriate places. If interested in a copy of this service, write Rev. Joe French, 303 Dallas St., LaGrange, Ga. 30240

## News From United, South Montgomery

In an attempt to recapture something of the original meaning of the communion service, the United Church of South Montgomery will have a series of "living room communion" services. This is an attempt to recover some of the original meaning of the supper in an atmosphere that is free from excessive ceremony.

The Worship Committee has planned to use pulpit drama in the Sunday morning worship service — a one-act play entitled "The Last Word" was presented as part of the Advent season observance. This play refers to the three comings of Christ — the first with the Incarnation, the second through the Holy Spirit, and the third, the end of all things.

## Jimmy Adcock Of Roanoke Awarded Van Cleave Scholarship

Jimmy Carl Adcock, a member of First Congregational Church, Roanoke, Alabama, has been awarded the Van Cleave Scholarship for study at Southern Union College for 1967-68.

## News From Evergreen, Beachton

Our Harvest Home Festival was a great success this year, held the three nights before Thanksgiving. The men had Rev. Mr. Westbrooks of Cairo, Ga., for their speaker. They had a very good choir to sing, raising \$200.

The ladies of the church had Rev. Frank Monroe of Thomasville, Ga., for their speaker. They raised \$120.

The youth had Rev. J. H. Malone of Magnolia High School in Thomasville, Ga., for their speaker, raising \$55.

The church was decorated with fruit and vegetables around the altar.

The Sunday School painted the church inside and bought ten chairs for the choir. A bulletin board was bought for the church.

The deacons and deaconesses have helped with the sick and prepared communion for the sick.

We have had a very good year at Evergreen, with good attendance. Rev. Ellis Fann is supplying as pastor.

Mrs. Narvella Hadley, Sec.

## HAVE YOU SEEN?

The following audio-visuals, new in the Conference Library, are offered for use in our churches:

**Hide or Go Seek**, a 35mm. color and sound filmstrip dramatizing the changing culture in America, pointing up its immediate effects upon many youths and adults — perplexity, futility, and, sometimes, despair. But it also seeks to suggest guidelines for thinking and acting responsibly so as to begin to resolve conflicts and pursue enlightened purposes. This filmstrip with record is especially usable for youth groups and for parents and leaders of teens.

**Elon Home for Children** is a 16mm. sound motion picture describing the work of the Elon Home at Elon College, North Carolina — one of the eight Health and Welfare Institutions "adopted" by churches of the Southeast Conference. Should be used in churches to inform their people of the work Elon Home does in ministering in Christ's name to children of many needs. Opportunity should also be given for viewers to share in this work.

**NORTH ALABAMA  
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP RALLY**  
St. John's Church, Birmingham  
January 28 — 3 P. M.



## UCBWM Has 158th Annual Meeting In St. Louis, Mo.

Eyewitness reports from places as far away as India and as near as Detroit highlighted the 158th annual meeting of the UC Board for World Ministries at St. Lucas Church, St. Louis, Mo., November 14-17.

Keynote speaker was Dr. David M. Stowe, who said missionaries should help organize credit unions and other community groups to help people in underdeveloped areas raise capital.

Dr. Richard Shropshire, a Madison, Wis., physician who toured India for the Board this spring, reported that American-style congregations can never be a model for Indian churches because the Christian church is comprised "almost entirely of the untouchable casts, the poorest and lowliest of people" who cannot afford luxurious buildings and organs. He said Christian hospitals, schools, and agricultural programs show the people that Christians care about the poor.

Nicholas Hood, minister of Plymouth UCC, Detroit, Mich., said the riots last summer were "the result of frustration over the fact that the civil rights movement had not produced what was really needed in terms of jobs, housing and representation."

Edward Bullard IV, former missionary in Ghana, explained that Ghanaian women often walk seven miles just to obtain a jar of worm-infested water.

The Board of World Ministries adopted a working budget of \$6,520,627 — a cut of \$176,821 from the 1967 budget. The cut was forced because income for several years failed to meet budgeted disbursements. This cut will not greatly reduce the number of missionaries on the field, but it will affect the work with churches in other countries and will slow the development of community betterment programs in Ghana, support for higher education in Japan, and scholarships for international students.

The mood of the entire meeting alternated between frustration over the inability of the church to finance an expanded overseas program, inability of Christians to focus attention on the world's needs, and exhilaration at tremendous strides by peoples and missionaries.



## Robert L. Shelton Retires

(Picture of Mr. and Mrs. Shelton on steps of Union Grove Church, Haleyville, Alabama)

At the end of October, 1967, Rev. and Mrs. Robert L. Shelton retired from the active ministry after serving 21 years as an ordained minister. Mr. Shelton was pastor of Union Grove Church, Haleyville, Alabama, upon two different occasions, totaling about 25 years. He had served other churches in the North Alabama Association and the Huguley Church in the East Alabama Association. Because of a severe automobile accident in 1962, he felt that he must retire earlier than usual.

Born August 10, 1906, at Hillsboro, Alabama, Mr. Shelton has ministered and lived in Alabama. He and his wife have six children living, most of them nearby.

Mr. and Mrs. Shelton now live at Route 2, Moulton, Ala. 35650. We wish them well in their retirement and a continued ministry in retirement.

## Anniston Churches Vote To Merge

The First Congregational Christian Church and Calvary United Presbyterian Church have voted to merge, with the organizational meeting set for Sunday, January 7, 1968, 4:00 P. M., at the Calvary Church. Rev. Andrew Cooper has been serving as pastor of both congregations during the past several months of negotiations. It is expected that he will continue as pastor after the merger.

## George Washington Is Ordained To Ministry

The North Alabama Association met in ecclesiastical council at the Mt. Lebanon Congregational Christian Church, Steele, Alabama, Sunday, Dec. 10, 1967, and ordained George Washington to this ministry. This was the home church of Mr. Washington, who makes his home presently at Rt. 2, Box 62-A, Attalla, Alabama 35954. Mr. Washington was born at Carrollton, Ga., and later married Miss Helen R. Beard. They have three children. He was licensed by the Association Feb. 2, 1965.

Leading the service of ordination was Dr. Guy L. Colbert, pastor-at-large of the North Alabama Association. Ernest Shelton gave the invocation prayer. Robert L. Shelton read the scriptures and W. J. Andes gave the sermon, "Called to Be a Prophet." Homer Barnes, a fellow member of the church, led the congregation in the Apostles' Creed. Karlton C. Johnson read the scripture lesson for the ordination and charge to the minister being ordained. Hubert Richter, moderator of the Southeast Conference, welcomed the newly ordained minister into the fellowship of the Conference.

For the past three years Mr. Washington has been studying the doctrines and history of the church, the history and program of the United Church of Christ, and the various aspects of the ministry, under the leadership of Dr. Colbert. Mr. Washington has supplied the pulpits of the Association and will continue to do so as time permits from his daily work in Gadsden, Alabama.

## New Publication Of Uniform Lesson Materials

As of October 1, 1968, a new series of Uniform Lesson materials will be published jointly by three denominations — the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the United Church of Christ. These materials will replace the present Uniform materials published jointly by the United Church of Christ and the United Presbyterian Church.

United Church participation in the development of the new series, called the Uniform Lessons Cooperative Series (ULCS), will be limited to teacher and pupil materials for adult use.

## Are You Using The UC Curriculum For Adults?

If not, you're missing something! "The Biblical Witness and the Contemporary World" is the theme for adults 1967-69. Each of the four semester courses is based on the study of one Old Testament and one New Testament book. They will help adults in our churches think through just what we do believe and help us in "Living Our Faith in Today's World." All the authors are professors in our denominational seminaries. The book for each semester course is \$1.50.

The current material, planned for use September - February in church school classes, but just as valuable for group study during the week for 20 hours of time is entitled "Biblical Witness and the World", and is written by Paul L. Hammer and Arthur L. Merrill, professors of New and Old Testament respectively at United Theological Seminary.

A departure from material available for previous courses is a **Handbook for Leaders** by Richard L. Snyder, chairman of Adult Ministry Staff, Div. of Christian Education. This 75c book is concerned with educational considerations about leadership and how adults learn in a group, as well as with specifics concerning the above-mentioned courses.

"The Bible Today," an album of four ten-inch records (\$10.00) is recommended as an invaluable supplement. It contains conversations between a scientist, an engineer, two biblical scholars, an ordained minister, and a moderator on such subjects as "The Bible in a Secular World," "Turning the World Upside Down," and "Bible Study that Counts."

All of these materials may be ordered from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Division of Publication Periodicals, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

### ORDER NOW

World Day of Prayer Packet, 75c, from Dept. of Publication Services, Nat. Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, N. Y. 10027. Send money with order. Theme: "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens." For use on Friday, March 1, 1968.

## HISTORIC MEETING

(Continued from Page 1)

Conference will administer the assets remaining to the old corporation. The income from these assets is to be used to give financial assistance to the young people of the Congregational Christian churches who are in training for full-time Christian service.

The old Southern Union College came into existence in 1922. During the more than 40 years of its existence, it became widely known among the churches of the whole eastern part of the United States. Surely few, if any institutions, have accomplished as much as this little college with the limited resources available to it. It has had a devoted leadership and through the years has been blessed with a most competent and dedicated faculty. A most loyal Board of Trustees has served through the years. A surprisingly large number of the ministers who have served in what was the Southeast Convention and the Southern Convention had their first opportunity for advanced training at this college. It has contributed, as well, many excellent leaders in other fields.

The life of the college as a church-related institution came to an end officially on October 1, 1964. On that date, the campus and the buildings and materials on the campus were presented to the State of Alabama. The remaining assets, after payment of debts, were to be donated to the Southeast Conference to be administered as indicated above. Since October 1, 1964, the college has been operated as part of the system of junior colleges under the State Junior College Authority. It is now officially the Southern Union State Junior College.

The recently formed corporation is in reality a re-incorporation of the original corporation. It keeps the name "The Southern Union College," but lists a new set of functions. Mr. W. P. Ingram, Mr. John Ensminger, and Mr. Leon Phillips are the incorporators. It seems that the assets left to this corporation will be approximately \$20,000. Since the income from this fund is to be used for youth of our churches, there is hope that additional gifts will be made to it. It is probable that through the years many of the friends of the old college have included it in their wills and additional funds will come to it in the form of bequests.

The writer had the privilege of serving the old Southern Union in 1932-1937, and from 1952 to the time of its

## How's Your Power?

(From "Pastor's Corner," Atlanta 1st)

A few months ago, when "Big Red," our recently retired station wagon, was wheezing laboriously around the community, I parked on Hunter Street in the bank's parking lot. When my business was completed, I attempted to start the station wagon, but got only a weak, plaintive sigh when I pressed the starter. The young man from a nearby filling station lifted the hood and immediately reported that one of the battery cells was dead. My ignorance of internal combustion motors and their appurtenances emboldened me to ask, "What about the other cells; surely the other cells ought to be strong enough to start the car?" The mechanic smiled and patiently explained that when one cell was dead, the power of the entire battery was so depleted as to make it unusable.

In some ways, the church is like a battery. When the individual cells (members) do not function, when their spiritual power is drained away by neglect and spiritual apathy, much of the vibrant energy which one expects to find in a church which is vitally alive is tragically missing. Our only source of power is continual recourse to God through prayer, devotion, and recommitment. — Homer C. McEwen

demise as a church-related institution. His sister, Vera V. Van Cleave served the college in the year 1932-33 and then continuously from 1934. Possibly it is only those who have had this privilege who know the greatness of its contribution to the area, state, and nation. Loyal friends of the institution have been trustees, donors, faculty, staff, and administrators.

A. R. Van Cleave

## THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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## Growing Up In Mission

Physical growth does not necessarily mean growth in a sense of mission. Mission has to be taught if it is to be learned and practiced. A new and very effective tool on the education of children in the mission of the church has been prepared recently by Friendship Press, the interdenominational publishing house in which the United Church participates. Titled the "Leadership Library for the Mission Education of Children," it contains four basic tools designed to help the local church to develop a broad program of mission education for children up to age 12:

**Growing Up In Mission**, a leader's handbook on the education of children in the mission of the church, by Grace Storms Tower;

**Helping Your Child Grow Up In Mission**, a book by Juanita P. Shacklett, designed to help parents understand the philosophy behind the teaching-learning experiences of their children in mission education, and how this may be fostered in the home;

**How John Grows Up In Mission**, a 75-frame filmstrip with record and script to help leaders and parents to become more aware of the need for and nature of mission education in the lives of children.

Included also is a booklet, **How to Use Your Leadership Library**, explaining what this aid has been designed to do and methods for achieving a well correlated use of the four parts of the library.

Purchased separately, these items would cost a total of \$12.70. Ordered as one unit, the cost is \$10.95. Several churches or an association might order one library to be used among that grouping of churches. Order by title "Leadership Library for the Mission Education of Children" from the United Church Bookstores, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

## REV. CLIFF B. SMITH AT MT. OLIVE CHURCH

Rev. Cliff B. Smith has been serving as pastor of Mt. Olive Church at Tallassee since Dec. 17. Coming from the Methodist Church, he has served in Alabama and Mississippi. He will be received into the Central Alabama Association and installed as pastor of Mt. Olive Church on Sunday, Feb. 11, 3:00 P. M.

**UNITED CHURCH ASSEMBLY**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
January 28 - 30, 1968

## The Church's Educational Ministry In A New Time

January is not too early to begin planning for August. And Christian Education-wise, August 27-30 are the dates for the National Conference on Christian Education to be held at the University of Notre Dame near South Bend, Indiana, sponsored by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

The theme for the conference, "The Church's Educational Ministry In a New Time," grows out of the awareness that "man's power to influence his environment is changing his style of life . . . producing a new time, a different world."

The question is, "How do we express what the faith has to say in words and actions that will be understood?" The National Conference on Christian Education will provide opportunities to deal with this question. Your pastor should have received a **registration brochure**. Additional copies are available from the Southeast Conference office.

## Remembering Men And Women In Military Service

How well does your church keep in touch with the men and women who are in military service? Although they may have a vague feeling that someone cares, some tangible evidence will help to undergird them whether they are in training or in combat. The following are a few suggestions:

Regular correspondence from members of the church in addition to their families (if your church publishes a weekly bulletin or an occasional newsletter, tuck that in).

Or, how about the youth group preparing some cooked goodies, following suggestions of the post office for safe arrival? How about several people sending birthday or seasonal cards? What about the church sending to all its service personnel a vest pocket-size book of Scripture passages and prayers for each day? A book of this type is **Prayers for Servicemen** by John Lewis Sandlin. Order from Cokesbury Press, 201 Eighth Ave., South, Nashville, Tenn. 37203. Cost, \$1.00 per copy, or \$10 per dozen.

Let **The Southeast News** know of ways your church keeps in touch.

## Who Can Speak For The United Church Of Christ?

This much-debated question was discussed in **The Southern Conference News** by the Conference Minister, James H. Lightbourne Jr. We quote in part:

"From time to time newspapers, television and radio carry reports of activities, or resolutions, or statements on controversial matters by an agency of the United Church of Christ or by one of its leaders. It isn't always clear from the reports that the agency or individuals involved are speaking for themselves alone, and do not presume to speak for the total fellowship.

"Responsible members of the news media are aware that our agencies and our leaders' cannot speak for us on these issues. But their time is too valuable and the space given to their reports is too limited to keep repeating that the agency acts and speaks for itself alone and does not presume to present the views of every member of the United Church of Christ.

"This is just a fact of life we must live with. The alternative is to reduce the boards and agencies of the United Church and our leaders to silence on the important issues of the day. Certainly we do not want to do that . . .

" . . . In our denomination we believe in the right of individuals, of churches, of associations, of conferences and of our national boards and agencies to speak for themselves on the issues of the day when conscience demands of them that they should do so.

"This is one of the fundamental rights within our denomination. We would lose, forfeit or deny this right at our own peril. It is one of the principles that give vigor to our church life. It deserves our support."

## REV. GUY COLBERT IN AUTO ACCIDENT

On Sunday, December 17, Dr. Guy L. Colbert was driving home from church service on a wet, slippery road when his brakes locked and his car turned over down a 50-foot embankment and was demolished. Dr. Colbert escaped with only slight bruises.

## EAST ALABAMA YOUTH FELLOWSHIP RALLY

Phenix City, Alabama  
January 27-28, 1968



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## The Local Church in God's Mission

# The 1968-69 Emphasis

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Good News: The Local Church In God's Mission

How shall the church relate to the growing power of youth, to the knowledge explosion, to the increasing role of government? What shall we say of the so-called "new morality" and of the ever increasing gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in our own land and throughout the world? How do the leisure revolution, the changing patterns of family life, and projected human life from a test tube affect the role of our church in God's mission?

These are a few of the questions with which local congregations of our Con-

ference will grapple in the coming months as they participate in the 1968-69 Emphasis: "The Local Church In God's Mission."

The symbol for the emphasis is a ship's helm. The circular shape suggests that the process of planning to participate more fully in God's Mission is never done. The spokes of the wheel call attention to the six major components in the planning process: identity clarification, situation definition, self-study, action, evaluation, and celebration.

"The Local Church In God's Mis-

## SEC Youth Announce New Meeting Date

THE SEC YOUTH Annual Meeting, announced in the December **Southeast News** for March 23-24, will be held instead on March 30-31. The location is still First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Reasons for the change are for better transportation correlation with a Lay Leaders Meeting in Atlanta at the same time, as well as possible dialogue between the two groups.

In preparation for the annual meeting, SEC YOUTH officers will meet on January 13 in Atlanta, with a committee from First Church. They will also continue revision of the SEC YOUTH constitution,

sion" is shaped around actual crises and concerns expressed by more than four hundred pastors and lay people who participated in an initial survey of concern. Dr. Gabriel J. Fackre, professor of Theology and Culture at Lancaster Theological Seminary, is chairman of the Emphasis Policy Committee, and Dr. Gerald J. Jud, General Chairman for Evangelism, is its executive director. The hope is that the Emphasis process will help us:

1. Deepen our commitment to and communion with Jesus Christ in church and world.
2. Discover and release the gifts God has given his people, lay and clergy alike, for the varieties of servanthood in church and world.
3. Plan for local mission and evangelism with all other Christian churches of the area that will cooperate in this planning, while working with all community agencies to meet human needs.
4. Participate in the overall mission of the church, so that there may be ministries adequate and appropriate to the new age.

In the Southeast Conference, the 1968-69 theme is being emphasized at the Ministers' Convocation, Jan. 15-17, 1968, at Camp Calvin. Beginning after lunch on the 15th, the Convocation ends after lunch on the 17th. Dr. Gerald Jud will be leader and Rev. David Beebe, chaplain.